

# ROTARY ROTAGRAPH

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas

Vol. 90 No. 48

June 19, 2009

## Editorial

### We Can Do Better

I am now in my 18<sup>th</sup> year as a Texan, and it is likely my ashes will find their place in some Lone Star landscape. I have great friends, belong to a wonderful church, live in a nice neighborhood and love the weather; yet I feel a bit schizophrenic about my final home. I did not get here as fast as I could.

I grew up in the Midwest, and lived there most of my first 34 years. Since then I have lived in Tennessee for 12 years, Louisiana for slightly more than one, and finally the aforementioned Texas 18. Through all these stops plus three Army years in Africa in my mid twenties, I find that my personality, the rhythms in which I live my life, even my flat uninteresting accent have been impervious to influence from the surrounding environment.

Midwesterners take great pride in "community," which takes precedence



Bronson Davis

dence over "individuality." Rights are important, but so are responsibilities. Midwesterners tend to agree with John Donne: "No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main... Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

I sense that Midwesterners feel more a sense that they are their brother's keeper whereas a Texan's ideal is the rugged individual. In Texas there is an emphasis on being self-sufficient with a strong concern for "my rights," and a suspicion of government. I posit all this to try to explain what I consider to be a series of baffling contrasts.

If Texas were a country, it would

have the 10<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. We now have the second largest economy in the nation with a Gross Domestic Product of \$1.142 trillion for 2007. Yet, 21.5 percent of people in Texas, or over 5 million, live in poverty. Our tax system was listed in a report in 2003 as one of the "Terrible Ten" most regressive states in the nation. The tax revenue raised per capita in Texas places us 49<sup>th</sup> among states, and our tax expenditures per capita ranks us 50<sup>th</sup>.

We are second in birth rate among the 50 states; second in the percent of our population under 18, first in the percent of uninsured children, first in teenage birth rate, and seventh in the number of children living in poverty. Texas is second in public school enrollment, but 44<sup>th</sup> in current expenditures per student. Our students rank 46<sup>th</sup> in their SAT averages, and we are 50<sup>th</sup> in the percent of the population 25 and older with a high school diploma. Our high school graduation

(continued page 3)

## Program

June 19, 2009

### SPEAKER:

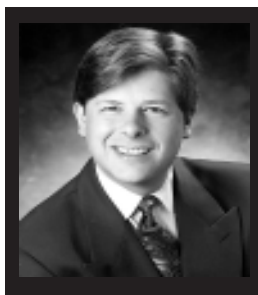
Aubrey McClendon,  
Chairman of the Board and CEO,  
Chesapeake Energy

FORT WORTH CLUB

Chairman for the Day:  
J.R. Labbe

NEWSCAST: Gary Cumbie

# Last Meeting



Tom Law Jr.

Ames Fender introduced guest speaker Joe Shannon, Jr., District Attorney, Tarrant County. The DA's office has 156 lawyers, 42 investigators and a staff of 317 people—the biggest law firm in the County.

Joe spoke with great admiration for his predecessor, Tim Curry, who served from 1972 for over 36 years—the longest serving DA in Texas. Joe said, "Tim ran a great shop. He put good people in the front, but held them accountable. He stayed in the background and let them do their work." Curry hired and trained many young lawyers who have gone on to their own practice in Fort Worth.

Just last year, the Worthless Check Section, the largest of its kind in Texas, collected over \$2.4 million in check restitution in addition to obtaining criminal case probations or jail time for another \$1.4 million. As Joe put it, that's a lot of money moved.

A Victims' Assistance Unit was established to aid those who have been victimized and consists of pros-

ecutors and investigators focusing on gang prosecution, economic crimes, family violence and crimes against children—tough cases as victims are often little people.

White collar crimes, as they are often referred to, are clearly on the increase and can involve theft, misapplication of fiduciary property, insurance fraud, food trafficking, money laundering, tampering with governmental records, securing execution of a document by deception, identity theft and computer crime. For example, in 2004, there were 6,900 cases of mortgage fraud, or "Liar's Loans" in Tarrant County. In 2007, this number had grown dramatically to over 46,000 cases. "It doesn't take a ski mask to be a crook anymore," Joe said.

Putting it simply, Joe described that the duty of the DA's office is to deal with correcting human error. "However, by doing what is right, someone will always go away unhappy."

Patricia Thomson offered the invocation, Bonnie Sudderth accompanied the National Anthem, John Bock introduced guests and Bo Soderbergh gave us a slightly differently perspective in his newscast.

Mike West and Terry Williamson were present with Paul Harris Fellow awards.

~ Tom Law Jr.,  
Kim Martin Company

## Cost of Meals Increase



As of July 1, 2009 the cost of lunch at the door will be \$20.

However, if you join the prepaid meals plan at dues time

you'll only be paying \$15!



## Next Week's Program

June 26, 2009

**SPEAKER:**

**The Roast**

Wayne Carson & J.R. Labbe

ROTARIAN: Mike Guyton

ROTARIAN: Marianne Irvin, Charleen Goldston, Jerry Hendrix

ROTARIAN: Wayne Carson

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# Friday's Speaker **Make-Up Attendance**



**Aubrey McClendon**

Aubrey K. McClendon has served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer since co-founding the company in 1989. From 1982 to 1989, Mr. McClendon was an independent producer of oil and gas. Mr. McClendon graduated from Duke University in 1981.

Fort Worth East — 6.8.09 — *Emil Friberg, Mike Thomas*

Western Fort Worth — 6.2.09 — *Bill Belury, Clem Constantine*  
*Clem Constantine, Harry Knudsen* — 6.8.09

Fort Worth South — 6.2.09 — *Kathryn Bryan, Wilton Hammond*

Fort Worth North — 6.10.09 — *Mike Thomas*

# Editorial

*(continued from page 1)*

rate places us 41<sup>st</sup>.

We are, however, first in air pollution emissions, amount of volatile organic compounds released into the air, and the amount of toxic chemicals released into water. We are also first in the number of executions, second in the rate of incarcerations and eighth in the rate of crime.

There are many more astonishing statistics, but I will leave you with one that is particularly disturbing: we are 50<sup>th</sup> in the percent of voting-age population that votes.

My friends, we can do better. We should be the leader among states rather than a bottom feeder. We are a proud, boastful people, but statistically “we are all hat and no cattle.” We need to walk the walk.

*~Bronson Davis*

## Years of Service:

*Bill Trotter, 37 Years*

*Ken Devero, 34 Years*

*Jim Brittain, 29 Years*

### *Your Dues are Due!*

*Dues statements went out on June 1st for July 2009-December 2009.*

*If you did not receive a dues statement, please contact the Rotary office.*

*Don't forget, this is a great time to donate to the children's fund and turn your badge gold.*





**ANDERSON, MARY K.**

"Mary Kathryn" February 5



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2403 Medford Court E.  
76109 817.924.1220  
2009

Mary K. Anderson ~ Proposed by:  
*Bo Soderbergh*

A Texas native, *Mary Kathryn* is the Director of Business Development for the Tarrant Area Food Bank. She is active on many area boards, including Multicultural Alliance, Partners Together for Health, Women's Policy Forum and more. *Mary Kathryn* is a former marathon runner and enjoys running, gardening, cooking and traveling. She has three children, Ellecia, Stewart and Margaret.

ROTARY CLUB OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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Doug White ..... Dorothy Wing

**ROTAGRAPH**

Craig Schaefer / Roger Yandell ..... Co-Editors  
Associate Editors

Roger Yandell ..... Last Meeting  
Perry Pillow ..... Advertising  
Roger Yandell ..... Personals  
Craig Schaefer ..... New Members  
Craig / Roger ..... Editorials

**CAPUA, CARLA A.**

"Carlo" December 24



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6913 Chickering Road  
76116 214.908.5452  
2009

Carlo Capua ~ Proposed by: *Steve Dutton*

*Carlo* is the owner and general manager of Z's Café. He was born here in Fort Worth and graduated from TCU with a BBA in Marketing. *Carlo* serves on the International Board of Directors for Sister Cities as the Young Professional representative. *Carlo* loves to travel and has lived in both Japan and Mexico. He also loves to cook.

**SMYERS, TRACY D.**

"T.D." October 1



**Government - National Defense, Navy**  
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3265 Captains Row  
76127 817.782.7500  
Barbara 2009

Captain T.D. Smyers ~ Proposed by:  
*Cliff Johnson*

*T.D.* is the Commanding Officer at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth. He has served in the Navy for 29 years. T.D. holds a Masters of Science in Physics and is a member of the Military Officers Association of America. In his free time, he enjoys camping, hiking and RV'ing.

**Join a Rotary Committee,  
Have Fun, Meet New People, Make a Difference!**

There are many ways to get involved in Rotary. Don't wait to be asked, roll up your sleeves and get involved. If you'd like to join a committee, simply call or email the committee chair. The best way to make the most of your membership in Rotary is to take an active role!

You can see a list of next year's committee chairs & their emails on our website. [www.rotaryfortworth.org](http://www.rotaryfortworth.org)  
Go to the Club Information page, then to the Committees page.